



**CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
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**PACIFIC DISASTER MANAGEMENT INFORMATION NETWORK (PDMIN)**

1 Jarrett White Rd. MCPA-DM • Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000

Telephone: 808.433.7035 • Fax: 808.433.1757

PDMIN@coe-dmha.org • <http://coe-dmha.org/apdr>



**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK  
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

**Week of Dec 12, 2005**

**AUSTRALIA**

**Rotavirus outbreak Northern Territory**

Health officials in the Northern Territory in Australia have reported a territory-wide outbreak of rotavirus, with 220 cases reported since September, according to the Australia's National Center for Disease Control (NCDC). In November alone, 92 cases were reported. The reported cases have been in all regions of the territory, including Alice Springs and East Arnhem. Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea among children. The incubation period for rotavirus disease is about 2 days. Rotavirus causes vomiting and watery diarrhea for 3 - 8 days, and often fever as well as abdominal pain. The highest rates of illness occur among children under the age of five and according to the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC) accounts for the deaths of some 600,000 children annually. Adults can also be infected, though disease tends to be mild in adult cases.

**Source:**

· Rotavirus outbreak hit Territory, Dec 13, 2005, <http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200512/s1530238.htm>

**CHINA**

**China confirms 6th human case of bird flu**

China's Ministry of Health reported its sixth human case of bird flu today, (Thursday, December 15). The 35-year-old peddler, from Shangxi village in Suichuan County of Jiangxi province, fell ill December 4 with a fever and symptoms of pneumonia and is currently being treated in a local hospital, the ministry said. Meanwhile, China's Ministry of Agriculture also confirmed a new outbreak of the H5N1 virus among poultry in Shangxi village, after 1,640 ducks were found dead there. Veterinarian authorities in

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Jiangxi have culled 15,000 poultry within three kilometers (1.9 miles) of the affected area. Chinese authorities have not said whether the human case and the new outbreak in poultry were linked. The H5N1 strain of the bird flu has so far killed at least 71 people throughout Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and China out of a total of 138 known human cases since late 2003, and has lately been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

**Source:**

- China reports one more bird flu outbreak in Jiangxi, Dec 15, 2005, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-12/15/content\\_3927295.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-12/15/content_3927295.htm)
- China: No Bird Flu Outbreak in 15 Days, Dec 15, 2005, <http://en.chinabroadcast.cn/2238/2005-12-15/51@287544.htm>
- China Reports First Bird-Flu Outbreak in Two Weeks (Update2), Dec 15, 2005, [http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=aH6Sqypuung8&refer=top\\_world\\_news](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=aH6Sqypuung8&refer=top_world_news)
- China reports another human bird flu case, Dec 16, 2005, [http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews\\_Detail.asp?ID=3594](http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3594)

## INDONESIA

### 16 dead in Measles outbreak in West Seram

Sixteen residents of Tahalupu subdistrict in West Seram of Maluku, Indonesia have died of measles in the past three weeks, according to Hugmon Sesa, head of the Seram Health, Mapower and People's Welfare Office. Hugmon reported that a health team has been deployed to the area to help contain the outbreak. Measles (also known as rubeola) is primarily a respiratory infection. A skin rash that spreads downward over the face, neck and body is one of typical symptoms with other symptoms including irritability, a runny nose, sensitivity to light, hacking cough, and high fever. In 2003 more than 500,000 people died of the measles, most of the victims were under the age of five. Measles can be prevented with vaccinations.

**Source:**

- 16 people die of measles in West Seram, Dec 15, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20051215.D10&iirc=9>

### Tests confirm Indonesia's 9th human bird flu death

In Indonesia, health authorities said a 39-year-old man from south Jakarta was strongly suspected of being infected with the bird flu virus when he died Tuesday (December 13), with a high fever and severe respiratory difficulties in Indonesia's Sulianti Saroso hospital, the country's main bird flu treatment center. If confirmed, the man would be Indonesia's 10th human fatality from the bird flu virus. The H5N1 strain of the bird flu has so far killed at least 71 people throughout Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and China since late 2003, and has lately been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

**Source:**

- Indonesia: 9th human avian influenza death, Dec 13, 2005, <http://promedmail.org>
- Avian influenza-situation in Indonesia-update 48, Dec 14, 2005, [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005\\_12\\_14/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2005_12_14/en/index.html)
- Another Indonesian dies of suspected bird flu, Dec 14, 2005, <http://www.terraily.com/2005/051214024303.n3dar5ap.html>

### WHO says two more rounds of polio vaccinations needed for Indonesia to be polio-free

Following advice from the World Health Organization (WHO), Indonesia will hold two more nationwide polio vaccination drives in 2006 in an effort to return the country to a

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polio-free status. According to Health Minister Siti Fadillah Supari, last month a third round of vaccinations were conducted reaching about 98% of the children targeted. Indonesia reached about 95% of the targeted 24 million children in the first two rounds of vaccinations. Polio attacks the nervous system and can cause irreversible paralysis in hours. Children are most at risk. After ten years of being polio-free, the virus first reemerged in May in West Java province in Indonesia, then it spread with 295 cases reported since the first outbreak.

**Source:**

· WHO sees polio-free Indonesia after more vaccinations, Dec 09, 2005, [http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews\\_Detail.asp?ID=3573](http://www.asean-disease-surveillance.net/ASNNews_Detail.asp?ID=3573)

· Indonesia to launch more polio campaigns in 2006, Dec 13, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/JAK316784.htm>

## MYANMAR

### Cholera outbreak kills at least four

According to the news service, the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) at least four people have died from Cholera outbreaks in the last several months at Taungbetletpyin-nyaung and Zeegone Villages, Kyaukpandaung Township, Mandalay Division in upper central Burma. According to local residents cited by DVB, no action has been made by the local government to stem the outbreak.

**Source:**

· Cholera outbreaks in upper Burma Kyaukpandaung kill at least four, Dec 15, 2005, <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=6110>

## PHILIPPINES

### Diarrhea outbreaks in Samar and Catanduanes kill at least six

Health authorities report three dead and 302 affected in a diarrhea outbreak in Guian, Eastern Samar. According to Eric Tayag, head of the Department of Health National Epidemiology Center, the outbreak caused by dirty water in deep wells began in October 2005 and has primarily affected children under the age of 14. Meanwhile, a separate diarrhea outbreak that began in late November was reported in the town of Cogon in Virac, Catanduanes, with three deaths and some 70 others affected in neighboring areas. According to Dr. Ferchito Avelino, assistant regional health director in Bicol, these cases could be related to a similar incident reported in area of San Andres and Virac in September 2005, when 14 deaths were confirmed from water sources contaminated with Escherichia Coli (also known as E. Coli) bacteria.

**Source:**

· Diarrhea kills 3 persons, downs 302 in Samar, Dec 15, 2005, [http://www.manilastandardtoday.com/?page=news07\\_dec13\\_2005](http://www.manilastandardtoday.com/?page=news07_dec13_2005)

· Diarrhea claims three lives in Catanduanes, Dec 15, 2005, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=24094>

## SRI LANKA

### Floods lead to increase of disease in Sri Lanka

Health authorities in Sri Lanka have reported an increase in cases of dysentery and

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dengue, following recent torrential rains and flooding throughout much of the country. More than 160 cases of dysentery have been reported, up from 101 cases reported Friday (December 2) and the number of dengue cases has risen to 67. According to a health ministry spokesman, most of the dysentery cases are primarily concentrated in Kurunegala, followed by Matale and Puttalam with records of cases in Kandy, Dehiwala, Tirncomallee and Hipalogama in Anuradhapura. Meanwhile, the concentration of dengue cases were reported in Colombo, followed by Matara with additional reports in Badulla, Kurunegala and Puttalam.

**Source:**

- Diseases on the rise in wake of floods, Dec 15, 2005, <http://www.dailynews.lk/2005/12/07/news24.htm>
- Dysentery on the rise in wake of floods, Dec 12, 2005, <http://www.promedmail.org>
- Flu, diarrhea hit Vanuatu volcano evacuation camp, Dec 15, 2005, <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=24094>

## **VIETNAM**

### **Suspects bird flu death in toddler**

In Vietnam, health authorities suspect a three-year-old boy who died Monday (December 12) might have been killed by the H5N1 strain of the bird flu virus. His blood samples were sent to the Pasteur Institute for confirmation. The article does not mention if the boy acquired the virus from a family member or if it was subsequent to direct contact with their infected. The boy's family of farmers, from Can Tho city in southern Hau Giang province, had lost 20 ducks to illness two weeks before the boy fell sick. Vietnam has been the hardest-hit country by bird flu, which has wiped out more than 150 million poultry and killed at least 42 people so far. The H5N1 strain of the bird flu has so far killed at least 71 people throughout Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and China since late 2003, and has recently been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

**Source:**

- Bird flu may have killed Vietnam toddler - doctor, Dec 14, 2005, <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/HAN214300.htm>

## **Other World News**

### **PAKISTAN**

#### **Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) suspected in a hospital in Rawalpindi, Pakistan**

A 35-year old woman died of suspected Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in a hospital in Rawalpindi, Pakistan on Sunday (December 11). The woman went to the hospital on Saturday (December 10) after developing a high fever and severe bleeding just several days after giving birth to child. CCHF was suspected in this case because the woman's husband works at a cattle skin-washing factory. Meanwhile, there have been reports of two additional cases of suspected CCHF in Abbottabad, after a butcher died of a high fever and excessive bleeding on Saturday (December 10) and his cousin, also a butcher, was admitted to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) on

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Sunday (December 11) after developing symptoms. CCHF virus is a tickborne virus. Transmission to humans occurs through contact with infected animal blood or ticks. CCHF can be transmitted from human to human through contact with infected blood or body fluids. Initial symptoms include headaches, fever and vomiting. Blood samples from the victims have been sent to the National Health Institute (NIH) for confirmation.

**Source:**

· Pakistan: alert over 3 cases of suspected CCHF, Dec 15, 2005,

[http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:14219748939377017876::NO::F2400\\_P1001\\_BACK\\_PAGE,F2400\\_P1001\\_PUB\\_MAIL\\_ID:1010,31350](http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:14219748939377017876::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1010,31350)

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